

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 DHA-02 EB-07

COME-00 /098 W

----- 087938

R 231335Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1332

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XJ, SOPN

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA COLUMNIST BLASTS U.S. AFRICA POLICY

REF: MOSCOW 13001

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA SENIOR COLUMNIST V. KUDRYAVTSEV
IS BACK TO OLD FORM WITH LENGTHY, HALF PAGE BLAST IN NOV 22
IZVESTIYA AT U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. KUDRYAVTSEV
SAYS LITTLE NEW--ALTHOUGH HE DOES DISCUSS GENEVA
CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA AT SOME LENGTH--BUT HE DOES NOT RETREAT
MUCH FROM PREVIOUS POSITIONS EITHER. ENTIRE THRUST
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OF ARTICLE IS AGAINST U.S. POLICY. JUDGING FROM THIS ARTICLE,

MOSCOW HAS NO INTENTION OF GIVING GROUND TO U.S. ON
ISSUE OF BLACK LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSUME DEPT HAS FBIS TEXT. EMBASSY WISHES TO NOTE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

--FOR KUDRYAVTSEV, NOTHING HAS CHANGED
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SECRETARY'S EFFORT TO FIND A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. KUDRYAVTSEV'S ARGUMENTS
REMAIN THE SAME AS IN EARLY FALL, BEFORE HE WAS APPARENTLY
MUZZLED FOR A TIME. KUDRYAVTSEV LINES UP ALL
OF OLD SHIBBOLETHS--U.S. CAPITAL INVESTMENT, ACCESS TO
REGION'S RAW MATERIALS, IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC POSITION,
EVEN IDEA OF "MILITARY AGGRESSIVE SOUTH-ATLANTIC BLOC".

3. WHAT IS NEW IS ARTICLE'S EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC U.S.
RESPONSIBILITY FOR COURSE OF EVENTS. BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY,
PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE,
IS MENTIONED ALMOST IN PASSING. INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRIES, WESTERN CAPITAL INVESTMENT--EVEN SUCH
TEMPTING TARGETS AS FRENCH ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA AND
ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICA MILITARY COOPERATION--ARE NEGLECTED.

4. ALSO NEW IS THE ADDED DETAIL KUDRYAVTSEV PROVIDES
FOR HIS PREVIOUS, OBLIQUE CRITICISM OF THE ROLE OF CERTAIN
BLACK STATES IN THE REGION OF A "NEO-COLONIALIST" NATURE
(REFTEL PARA 4). HE DESCRIBES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HARD
CURRENCY EARNINGS PAID TO THE ACCOUNTS OF SURROUNDING BLACK
STATES FOR THE WORKERS THEY PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICA, AND
HE MENTIONS THE FOREIGN TRADE LEVER WHICH SOUTH AFRICA IS
ABLE TO EMPLOY AGAINST ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA DUE TO ITS
CONTROL OF TRANSPORT.

5. KUDRYAVTSEV DESCRIBES UNITY OF "PATRIOTIC FRONT"
OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP AND SINGLES OUT
MKOMO AND MUGABE AS LEADERS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT. HE
ALSO DESCRIBES STAUNCH SUPPORT OF FIVE "FRONT-LINE"
PRESIDENTS FOR ZIMBABWE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. DIFFERENCES
AT GENEVA CONFERENCE OVER DATE FOR FINAL INDEPENDENCE ARE
DESCRIBED, BUT ONLY IN HIGHLY SIMPLIFIED TERMS, I.E., SMITH'S
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POSITION, THE POSITION OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS, AND
THE BRITISH COMPROMISE SUGGESTION OF MARCH 1, 1978.
THUS, SAYS KUDRYAVTSEV, "THE CONFERENCE HAS REACHED A
DEADLOCK".

6. COMMENT: KUDRYAVTSEV'S HARSH, SPECIFICALLY ANTI-U.S.
ARTICLE APPEARS ESPECIALLY JARRING AFTER THE RELATIVELY
MODERATE COVERAGE WHICH THE SOVIET PRESS HAS GIVEN SOUTHERN

AFRICA ISSUES SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BEGAN. WE ARE
INCLINED TO READ IT AS A SIGNAL TO THE U.S., AND PERHAPS
TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT BACK
AWAY FROM ITS "PRINCIPLED AND CONSISTENT POSITION" ON THE LIBER-
ATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW18395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760436-0424
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761123/aaaaasyn.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 13001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IZVESTIYA COLUMNIST BLASTS U.S. AFRICA POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, UR, US, XJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006